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\$1.75 US
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THE TRIAL OF LOCKHEED

EXCALIBUR™



50
YEARS



OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA

1941 - 1991

DAVE
HOOPER

HAD A CAT ONCE.
THINK IT WAS NAMED
MISTY OR SHADOW
OR SOMETHING.

ALL I
REMEMBER IS
SHE DIED ON MY SIXTH
BIRTHDAY-- RUN OVER
BY THE CATERING
TRUCK.

POPPA TRIED TO
FEED ME SOME LINE
ABOUT "ANIMAL
HEAVEN."

DID IT
MAKE YOU
FEEL ANY
BETTER?



ACTUALLY
IT MADE ME FEEL
THAT "PEOPLE
HEAVEN" WAS A
RIP-OFF.

WHAT'S THE
POINT OF ETERNAL
LIFE IF YOU CAN'T
SPEND IT WITH YOUR
BEST FRIEND?



WITH ANY LUCK...

...OUR PATIENT
WON'T HAVE THE
ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION ANY
TIME SOON.



EXCALIBUR™ Vol. 1, No. 40, August, 1991. (ISSN #1045-1366) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; Canada \$26.00; and foreign \$33.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

PRINTED IN CANADA

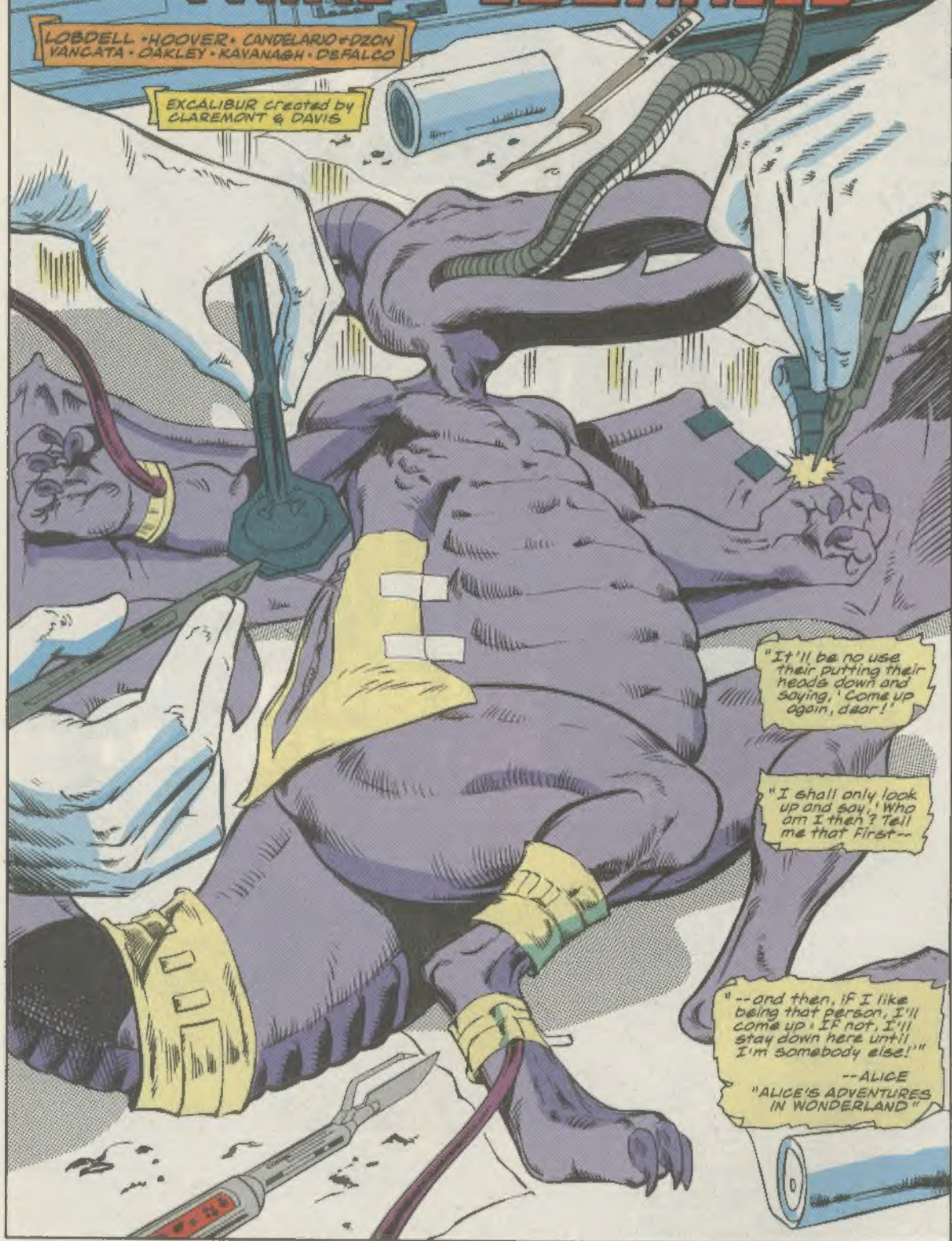
THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR

"THE TRIAL OF LOCKHEED"

LOBDELL • HOOVER • CANDELARIO • DZON
VANCATA • OAKLEY • KAVANAGH • DERALCO

EXCALIBUR created by
CLAREMONT & DAVIS



"It'll be no use
their putting their
heads down and
saying, 'Come up
again, dear!'"

"I shall only look
up and say, 'Who
am I then? Tell
me that first--'"

"--and then, if I like
being that person, I'll
come up. If not, I'll
stay down until
I'm somebody else!"

--ALICE
"ALICE'S ADVENTURES
IN WONDERLAND"

IN THE OBSERVATION BOOTH
ABOVE SURGERY--

--SHADOWCAT--

...NIGHTCRAWLER...

...MEGGAN...

...CAPTAIN
BRITAIN...

... AND PHOENIX HOLD A SILENT
VIGIL FOR THEIR FRIEND AND
FELLOW MEMBER OF EXCALIBUR.

FOUR HOURS LATER,
THE VIGIL HAS GROWN
PROGRESSIVELY
LESS SILENT.

NO ONE'S
BLAMING
YOU FOR
LOCKHEED'S
INJURIES,
KITTY.

EH? DR. EDDERTON--
IS THE OPERATION
OVER?

AFRAID NOT.
WE WERE
HOPING YOU'VE
REMEMBERED
ANYTHING WE
MIGHT FIND
USEFUL.

NEAR AS I CAN
TELL, I'VE JUST
PATCHED HIS
FIFTH LUNG IN
AS MANY
HOURS.

NO ONE BUT ME,
BRIAN! I WAS STUPID
ENOUGH TO FALL FOR
DOCTOR DOOM'S "SAVING
THE WORLD" SHTICK! *

LOCKHEED
WAS WOUNDED
DEFENDING ME!
IF HE... DIES,
I'LL NEVER FOR-
GIVE MYSELF!

* EXCALIBUR
37-39 -- T.K.

BUT HE'S GOING TO BE
OKAY, RIGHT? BRIAN
BRADDOCK SAYS YOU'RE
THE BEST SURGEON
IN THE WORLD!

TRUE, BUT
LOCKHEED ISN'T
OF THIS WORLD.

WH- WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?

I'M SAYING WE'RE DOING
ALL THAT IS HUMANLY
POSSIBLE.

THE REST IS UP
TO LOCKHEED.



'PHEW! THAT WAS AS CLOSELY CLOSE AS CAN BE!

POIK!

CERTAINLY--
NEAR CERTAIN--
THE END OF ME!*

* ALL DRAGON DIALOGUE LOOSELY
TRANSLATED FROM DRAGON SPEAK
--TRANSLINGUAL TERRY



YET AFORE I REJOICE,
RE: A SECOND CHANCE
ON LIFE...

...PERCHANCE,
I SHOULDST ASK,
"WHO'S THAT UNDER
THE KNIFE?"



I DO NOT LIKE
THIS! NO, NOT
A BIT NOR A
WIT!

(IF I
THOUGHT
IT WOULDST
HELP, I
WOULDST
THROW SUCH
A FIT!)



HEY, KITTY! HEY, KURT!
HEY, BRIAN, MEGGAN,
AND RACHEL!

WHY CAN'TST
THEY HEAR ME--
NO MATTER HOW
LOUDST I YELL?



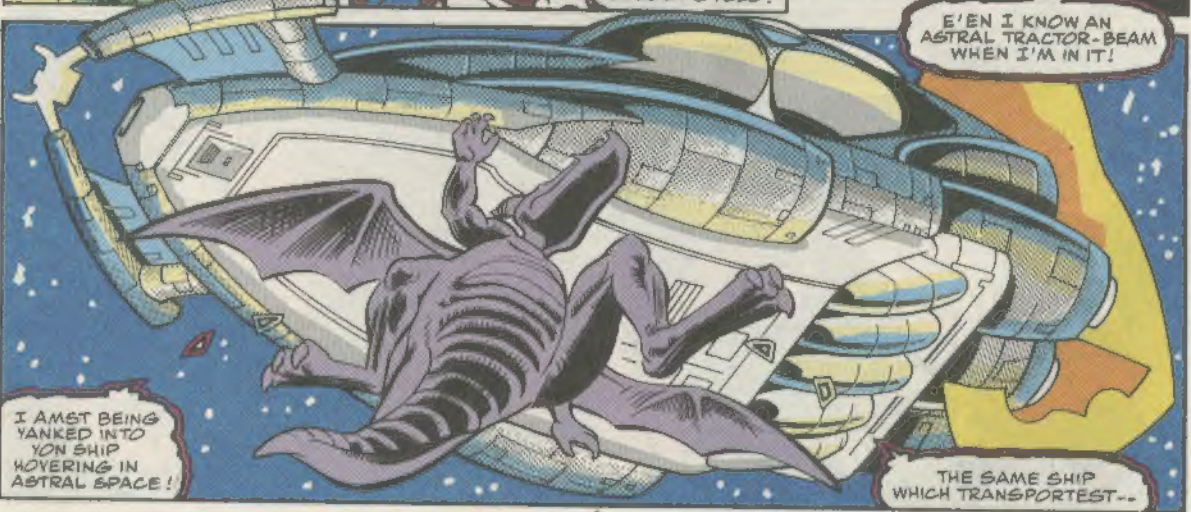
COULDST IT
BE TRUE--

'GOSPE! HAVE
I EXPIRED?

BUT THIS ISN'T
"DEATH"!

HOLD ONE
SIXTY SECOND!
MINUTE!

FROM THIS
WOUNDED MORTAL
COIL, HAST MY SOUL
NOW RETIRED?!



E'EN I KNOW AN
ASTRAL TRACTOR-BEAM
WHEN I'M IN IT!

I AMST BEING
YANKED INTO
YON SHIP
HOVERING IN
ASTRAL SPACE!

THE SAME SHIP
WHICH TRANSPORTST--

--THE TRANSIENT SOULS OF
MY SPACE-FARING RACE!

WELCOME, YOUNG
DRAGLING! WE'VE
SEARCHED WIDER
THAN WIDE!

DIDST YOU
REALLY BELIEVE,
CONCEIVE YOU
COULDST HIDE?

AND WHY IS YON
FAIR-FACE ETCHED
IN CONFUSION
AND SHOCK?

SURELY YOU
NEVER PLANNEDEST
ON ESCAPING...
THE FLOCK!

ENOUGH WITH
THE PLEASANTRIES,
THE "IT'S BEEN
QUITE SOME TIME..."

LET'S GET ONST
WITH THE TRIAL--AND
PUNISH HIM FOR HIS
CRIMES!

PIPT!

HEAREST YE! HEAREST YE!
THE COURT IS IN SESSION!

PLEASE PLACE
THE OFFENDANT
IN THE ASTRAL
LEG IRON!*

SILENCE! DON'T PRATTLE!
WE ALL KNOW WHYEST
WE'RE HERE!

'TIS TO PASS SENTENCE
ON THE ONE WE HELD
MOST DEAR!

HOW DO
YOU PLEAD?
HOW PLEADEST
YOU, TRAITOR?

CLING
CLANG

* I DID SAY A LOOSE TRANSLATION! --T.K.

I BEG TELL
ME THE CHARGES
ON SACRED
ARBITRATOR?

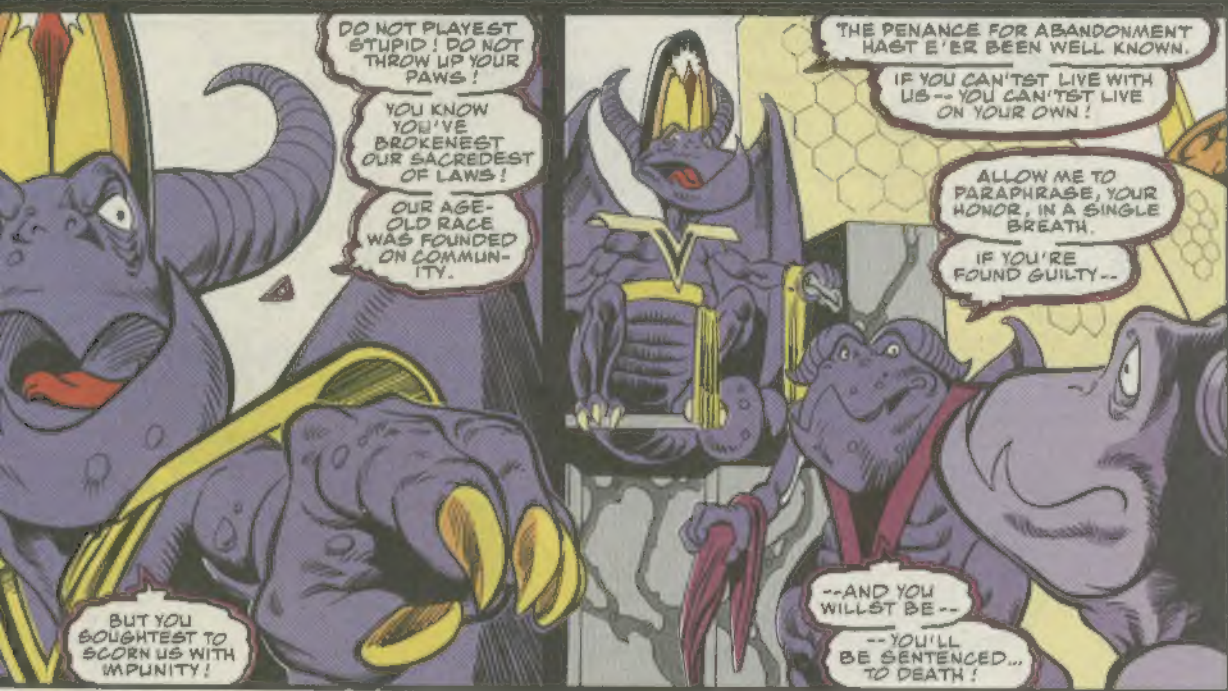


UH, ER... HEH, HEH,
HEY, GUYS! IT HAS
BEEN A WHILE!

DON'T I
GET A "HOW
DO YOU DO?"

A PAWSHAKE?

A SMILE?



DO NOT PLAYST
STUPID! DO NOT
THROW UP YOUR
PAWS!

YOU KNOW
YOU'VE
BROKENST
OUR SACREDEST
OF LAWS!

OUR AGE-
OLD RACE
WAS FOUNDED
ON COMMUN-
ITY.

THE PENANCE FOR ABANDONMENT
HAST E'ER BEEN WELL KNOWN.

IF YOU CAN'TST LIVE WITH
US-- YOU CAN'TST LIVE
ON YOUR OWN!

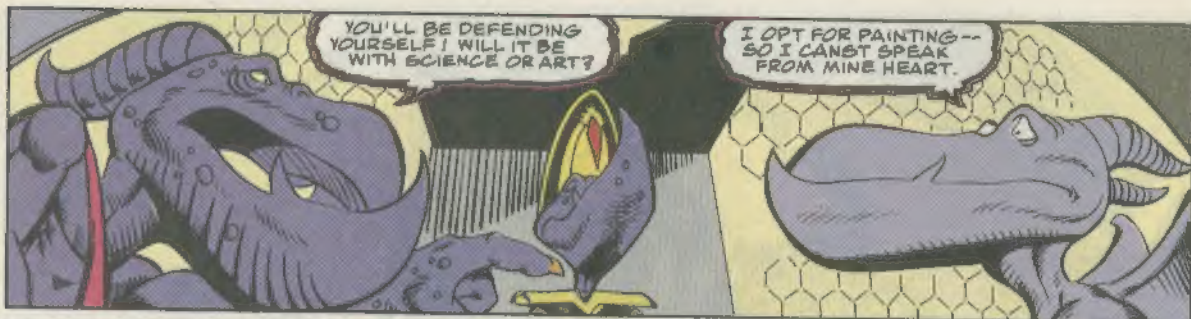
ALLOW ME TO
PARAPHRASE, YOUR
HONOR, IN A SINGLE
BREATH.

IF YOU'RE
FOUND GUILTY--

--AND YOU
WILLST BE--

--YOU'LL
BE SENTENCED...
TO DEATH!

BUT YOU
BOUGHTST TO
SCORN US WITH
IMPUNITY!



YOU'LL BE DEFENDING YOURSELF! WILL IT BE WITH SCIENCE OR ART?

I OPT FOR PAINTING-- SO I CANST SPEAK FROM MINE HEART.



SO BE IT! YOUNG DRAGLING-- LET ME STATE THE FLOCK'S CASE.

blip!

YOUR CRIME WAS COMMITTED FAR FROM THIS PLACE.



DOST YOU REMEMBER YOUR WIN-DAYS, WHILST BATTLING THE BROOD?

THEY WERE A RACE MOST HOSTILE.

THEY SOUGHT US AS FOOD.

YOU FOUGHT AND FOUGHT BRAVELY, REDUCING THEIR RANKS TO NEAR-ZERO.



WHICH 'T'WAS HOW YOU CAMEST KNOWN AS OUR MOST HEROIC HERO!

BUT FOR SOME REASONLESS REASONS, YOU UPPED AND YOU FLED!



THE VERY NEXT DAY, YOU WERE DUE ON THE ALTAR.

OPTING TO COHABITATE WITH AN ADOLESCENT BI-PED.

WHICH EMBARRASSED YOUR "INTENDED," THO' NO ONE COULDS'T FAULT HER.

SO WHAT SAYEST YOU, DRAGLING? WHY WOULDST YOU PASS UP A WIFE?

BUT CHOOSE YOUR ANSWER MOST WISELY--

--FOR IT MAY MEANST YOUR LIFE!



NO DOUBT YOU'VE ALL PONDERED MY SUDDEN DEPARTURE.

"T'WAS MOST DISCONCERTING, OF THAT I'M SURELY SURE.

WITH A THOUGHT-STROKE OF MY SOUL-BRUSH, LET ME DISPEL ALL RUMOR.

MINE MOTIVATION FOR LEAVING LIES WITHIN...

-EXCALIBUR

THEY'RE HEROIC HEROES IN A LAND CALLED GREAT BRITAIN.

AND I CONFESS, WITH THE YOUNGEST, I WAS INSTANTLY SMITTEN.

BUT IF THE RATIONALE AS TO WHY IS NOT IMMEDIATELY CLEAR--

--LISTEN PARTICULARLY CLOSE WITH YOUR HEART AND YOUR EAR.



I OBJECT!

I OBJECT!

I OBJECT!

I OBJECT!

CALM YOURSELF, CASEMAKER--YOU'RE A NERVOUS WRECK!



YOU'VE NO CAUSE TO INTRODUCE HU-MANS INTO EVIDENCE!

WHAT BETTER WAY TO EXPLAIN HIS CHOICE OF RESIDENCE?

OBJECTION OVERRULED.



PROCEED, DRAGLING, WITH YOUR PROCEEDING.

!PSST! CASEMAKER, YOUR HORN-LINE'S RECEDING.

SMARTLY SMART,
BRAVELY BRAVE, AND
PRETTILY PRETTY...

...SHE'S
KATHERINE PRYDE/
SHADOWCAT, OR
JUST PLAIN
KITTY.

UPON TURNING THIRTEEN,
SHE DISCOVERED THE
POWER...

...TO PHASE-
THROUGH ALL
OBJECTS. SHE
SOON MET
XAVIER.

WHILE
MOST TEENS
HAVE DATES
(A MOVIE, A
DANCE...)

AS AN X-MAN,
SHE DEFENDED BOTH
HU-MANS AND
MU-TANTS.

IN DEEP
SPACE, WE MET.
IN THAT MOMENT,
I KNEW...


...I'D MET A
KINDRED SPIRIT;
A LOVE TRULY
TRUE.

TOGETHER
WE FOUGHT. WE
LAUGHED, WE
CRIED--

--ON THE DAY
WE BELIEVED
THE X-MEN HAD
DIED.

BUT RATHER
THAN SIT WALLOW
IN DESTRUCTIVE
DESPAIR...

...SHE TRAVELED
TO ENGLAND AND
FOUNDED EXCALIBUR
THERE!



NEXTLY IS KURT
WAGNER, ONCE A
STAR CIRCUS
PERFORMER.

HE RETIRED
FROM THE BIG TOP
TO BECOME THE
NIGHTCRAWLER

WITH HIS
POWER TO
TELEPORT--
AGILE AND
LEAN--

--HE FOUGHT
BESIDE CYCLOPS,
STORM AND
WOLVERINE

AFTER THE
"DEATH" OF HIS
ORIGINAL
TEAM,

...KURT
ALONG WITH
KITTY, CLUNG
TO XAVIER'S
DREAM

THOUGH NOT
LIKELY HE'D ADMIT
IT HE'S EXCALBUR'S
BACKBONE

HIS HEART
BELONGS TO
ONE HE CAN
NEVER CALL
HIS OWN

FROM THE VERY
DAY HE STEPPED
ONTO THE SHORES
OF ENGLAND...

HE'S HAD HIS
EYES AND HIS
HEART ON ANOTHER'S
GIRL -- MEGGAN

ONCE AGAIN I AMBT
COMPELLED TO OBJECT!

THESE OR GINS
YOU RELATE, CAN'TOT
BE CORRECT

YOU RE
TELLING US
DETAILS OF
THE LIVES
AFURE YOU'D
MET!

AND EVERYONE
KNOWS HU-MANS
DON'T SPEAK OUR
TONGUE!

'TWOULD SEEM YOUR
TALE'S SUSPECT AFURE
IT'S BEGUN

SECOND POINT FRST,
TRUE I DON'T SPEAK
THEIR LANGUAGE

YOU MUST BE
MAKING THIS
UP, I'LL WAGER!
I'LL BET!

THEIR HEARTS, NEEDS
AND WANTS HOLDST
NO MYSTIQUE

IT'S SOME-
THING
CALLED
"FRIENDSHIP"
AND FUR T
TO LAST--

I OBJE--

CASEMAKER?
A WORD
WITH I?

--YOU
CELEBRATE
A FRIEND'S
PRESENT
AND PART

DO YOU
BELIEVE H.M.
CO-PILOT?

WHY
WOULDS
HE LIE?

HE SPEAKS WITH
SUCH PASSION AND
OBVIOUS PRIDE

FATHER,
PLEASE LET
THS
OBJECTION
RIDE

FOR YOU
LOVE-LIFE,
THS ONCE
I'LL CONCEDE

HU-MANS REVERE
INDIVIDUALITY

OBJECTION WITHDRAWN

THE OFFENDENT
MAY PROCEED.

YOU WOULDS
THINK SHE WOULDS
HATE ME HAVING
SUFFERED MY
REJECTION

YET THE LOOK
IN HER EYES IS
ONE OF UNDYING
AFFECTION

MY NEXT TEAM-
MATE IS HISTORY
O' BURN!

WHEN FANT SHE
APPEARED SHE WAS
FANT-T LITHE AND
FURRY

BECAUSE HER F.T. RE
LVE BRAN DARED
VENTURE NEAR HER

SHE SOON
LEARNED HER BURN
WAS AKA 'A
MURDER

LET THEM
TALK AND
SHE...

...INT THE
EIGHT M.T.
HEARD TO
ANOTHER'S
EYES

HER NAME IS
WILLIAM BUT IN IT
HER FANTHER
LAST?

E'EN SHE
DOESN'T KNOW
SHE HAST NOT A LITTLE
TO HER PAST

BRAN BRADDOCK
WAS ONCE A
STUDENT

GIVEN A CHOICE BY THE
ENTITY "MERLIN"

WHEN ESTABLISHED
SOME FURTHER
AN ACCIDENT

HE REFUSED TO
LET ANYONE
CAPTAIN BRADDOCK

EVER AGAIN
HE WOULD
THAT THE
PUNISHMENT
WAS 7

FOR THERE
ARE MANY SUCH
CAPTAINS
THE NAME OF THE
MULTIVERSE!

CALL THE
THINGS THAT
WAS WHERE ER
WAS ONCE

OR
CAPTAIN WAS
ALWAYS FINE
THAT AS HE
WAS

HERE'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE

AH, CAPTAIN BRITAIN-- THERE YOU ARE! AS THE HOSPITAL'S CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, I JUST WANTED TO ASSURE

YES YES VERY GOOD. MUCH APPRECIATED CARRY ON

YOU LOOKING FOR THE LEATHER-CLAD REDHEAD WITH THE LEGS?

YOU'VE SEEN HER?

HAVE I EVER! YOU MIGHT ASK HER TO DRESS MORE APPROPRIATELY-- SOME OF US ARE HEART PATIENTS!

YOUR FRIEND IS ON THE ROOF, S R

THANK YOU NURSE

IF HE'S A "CAPTAIN" WHERE DO I ENLIST?!

RACHEL-- A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

JUST THINKING ABOUT THE TIME I TRIED TO KILL SELENE. *

HOW WOLVERINE "INSISTED" I BACK OFF

UNCANNY X-MEN # 207 T.K

I HOPE YOU'VE NO INTENTION OF--

EXACTING VENGEANCE FROM DOOM? LOVE TO.

THE OLD ME WOULD HAVE IGNORED HIS "DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY."

IN THE FUTURE WHERE I WAS BORN, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO PUT THEMSELVES ABOVE THE LAW

ONCE THAT STARTED, THE NEXT STEP WAS TO REWRITE THOSE LAWS

ANYONE KNEW IT, KILLING MUTANTS BECAME LEGAL.

PHOENIX OR NOT, I DON'T EVER WANT TO CROSS THE LINE THAT SEPARATES ME FROM THEM

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE LAWS

SOMETIMES TO PROTECT US FROM EACH OTHER, AND SOMETIMES FROM OURSELVES

OF COURSE, C DOOM EVER ATTACKS ME AGAIN...?



IN OUR MASS COLLECTIVE
ASTRAL ESTATE WE SOUL-
FELT THAT PHOENIX FLARE!

SHE'S THE
CELESTIAL
AVATAR!

D'DN'TST
YOU KNOW, OR
DIDN'TST YOU
CARE?

TH'S
OTHERWISE
NSIGNIFICANT
HU-MAN
POSSESSES
COSMIC
POWER

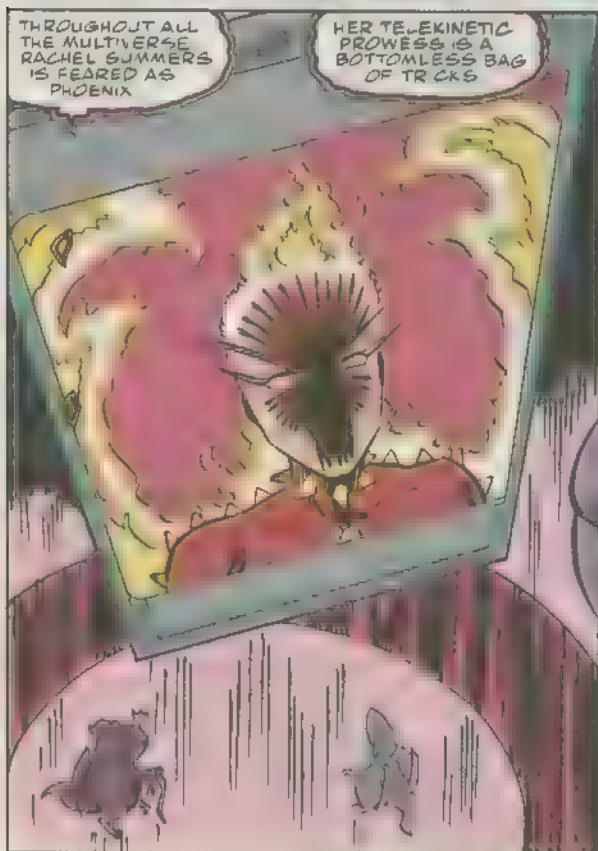
"TO DESTROY
AN ENTIRE
GALAXY IN
ONE-SIXTIETH
OF AN HOUR"

FOR ONE SUCH
AS THIS YOU VE
CHOSEN TO
TURNST YOUR
BACK UPON
YOUR
BRETHREN?

INDEED I WOULDST
AND WOULDST AGAIN,
FOR SHE IS AN "UNTO
DEATH." FRIEND

SEEK NOT TO
DEFENDEST HER
WITH YOUR LAME
EXCUSES!

FROM AFAR
WE VE STUDIED
HER AND
KNOWEST OF HER
ABUSES



THROUGHOUT ALL
THE MULTIVERSE
RACHEL SUMMERS
IS FEARED AS
PHOENIX

HER TELEKINETIC
PROWESS IS A
BOTTOMLESS BAG
OF TRICKS

HER "MOM"--JEAN GREY--
AS BEST WE KNOW, WAS
NOT THERE TO NURTURE--

--THE YOUNG
DAUGHTER NOT
YET BORN IN AN
ALTERNATE
FUTURE.

"...WHEREST SHE
LIVED AS A SLAVE
A "HELL HOUND"
AND A TRACKER

AND FEARS SHE
ATTEMPTED TO REBEL,
HER MASTER AHAB
WOULDST SMACK HER

ALLOWEST ME TO CONTINUE
SHE ESCAPED FROMST THERE--

--TO TRAVEL BACKLY BACK IN TIME
AND JOIN THE X-MEN HERE

SHE SOON
ANGERED
WOLVERNE,
WHO FELT
THE NEED
TO GLASH
HER

ROMA SOUGHT
TO TRACK HER
DOWN WITH
TECHNET AND
GATECRASHER.

NEETW XT
SHE BOARDED.
DOWN WITH
MOJO AND THE
SIXPACK--

--OF SKIN-SHEERING
WARLWOLVES WHO CAME
TO EARTH TO BR NGST
HER BACK

TWERE THESE
BELFSAME FIES
THE FRET IN AN
ENDLESS
STREAM

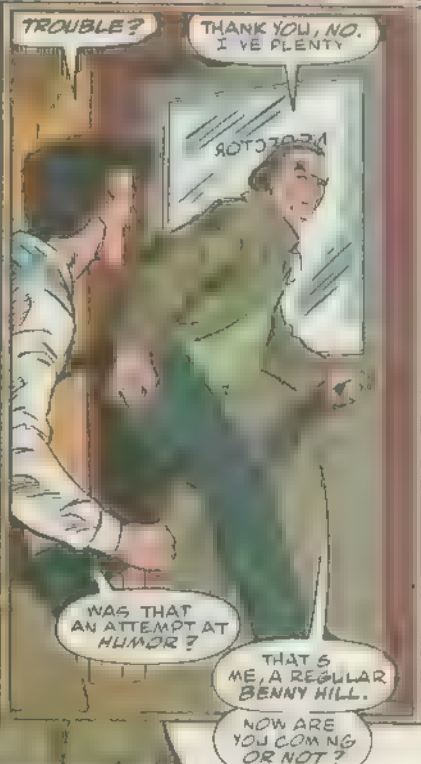
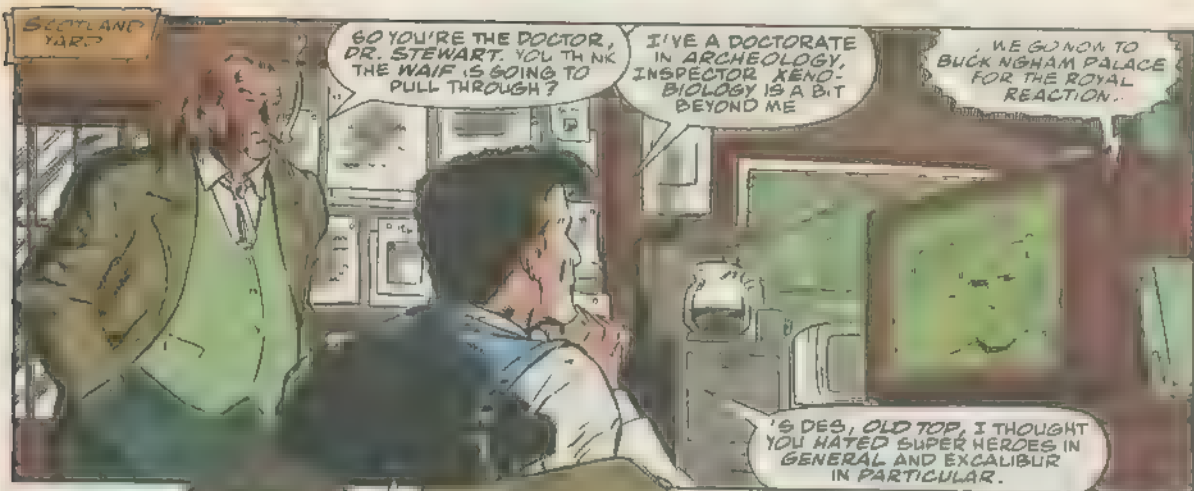
WHICH PROMPTED
THE FORMATION OF
EXCALIBUR -- OUR
TEAM!

THE MYSTERY
MEMBER OF OUR
GROUP IS THE
PUZZLEY PLZZLE
WIDGET

ON THE DAY
HE WASY CREATED
HE "SWALL WEY"
A CHLD NOT A
WIDGET

"COLIN" WAS
THE CHLD'S NAME
THE WHOLE
CREAL WAS
UNNTENTIONAL--

--FOR WIDGET
HAS BUT SLIGHT
CONTROL OF POWERS
PAN-D-MENSIONAL





AS I WAS EXPLAINING, AFORE
I RAN OUT OF PAPER...

...ON DAY THIRTY-FIVE
OF THE ENDLESS
CROSS-TIME CAPER--

--WE WERE
SURROUNDED
YET AGAIN BY
ALTERNATIVE
NAZIS.



HMM...?

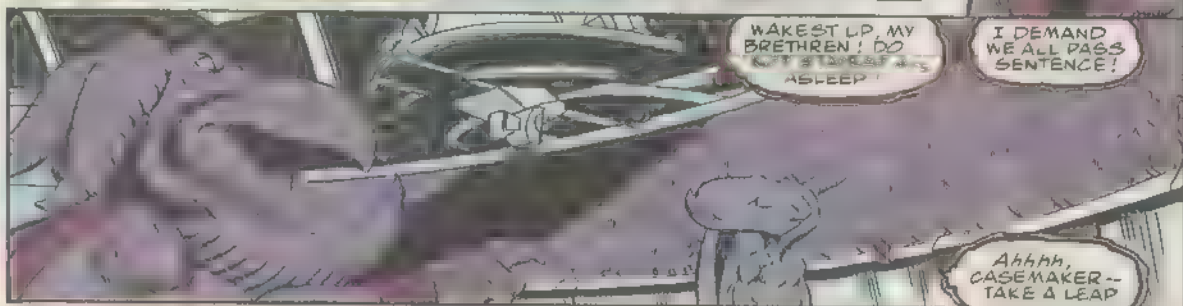
HOW
'BOUT
THAT?

...THEY'VE
DECIDED TO
CATCH SOME
ZZZZS



I :DOWN:
OBJECT TO SUCH
AN OBVIOUS
PLANLY PLOY!

HE SEEKS
TO BORE US
UNTO DEATH:
WITH OUR
MINDS HE'D
TOY!



WAKEST UP, MY
BRETHREN! DO
NOT LET US
ASLEEP!

I DEMAND
WE ALL PASS
SENTENCE!

AAAAH,
CASEMAKER--
TAKE A LEAP



THUMMABLE

...UP? WHAT'S
GOING ON?

IT IS
NO DOUBT
A TRICK!

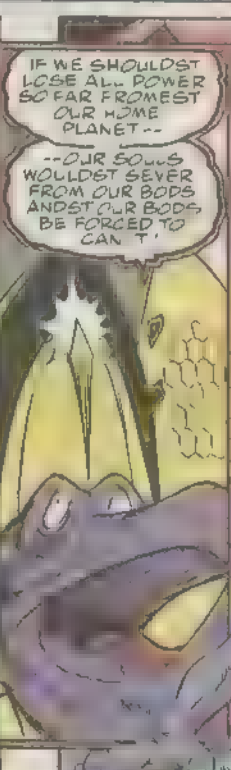
DON'TST YOU
SEE DANGER
WHEREST IT BE?

OR AREST
YOU THAT
THICK?

THE ONLY THING
THAT COULDS
CAUSE AN ABSTRA
SHIP TO LUMBER SO...



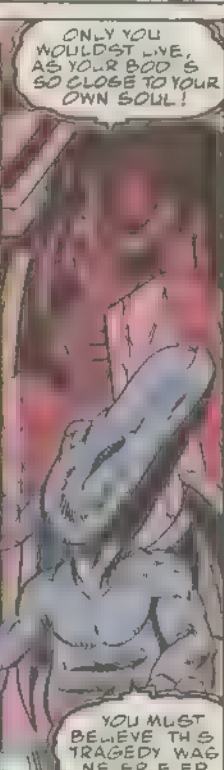
NO!



...TWOULDS
BE IF THE PLOT AND
HIS CREW
WOULDS BE
ENGULFED BY
SLUMBER

IF WE SHOULDST
LOSE ALL POWER
SO FAR FROMST
OUR HOME
PLANET--

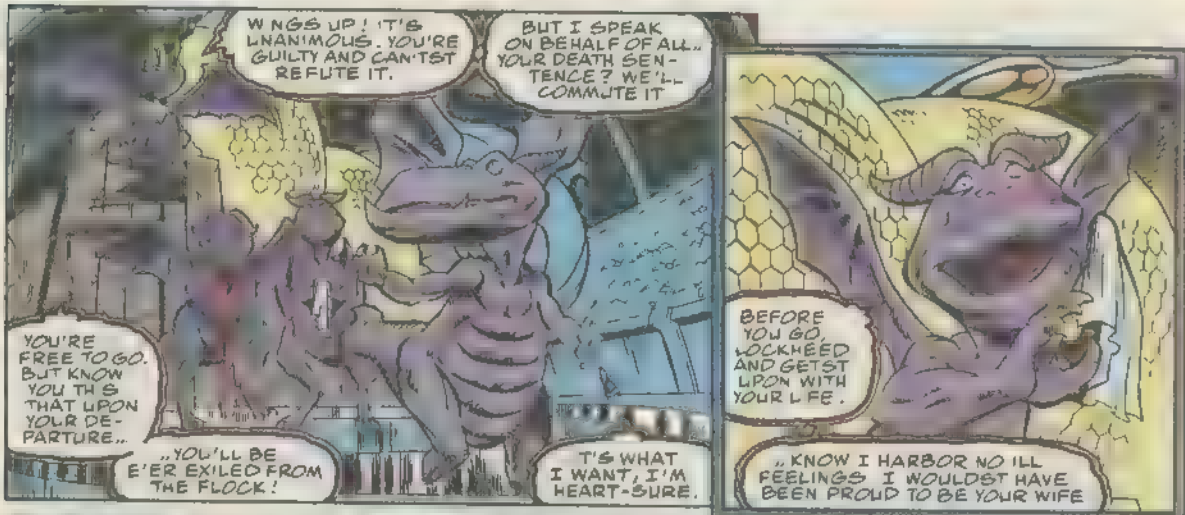
--OUR SOULS
WOULDS SEVER
FROM OUR BODS
ANDST OUR BODS
BE FORCED TO
CAN'T!



ONLY YOU
WOULDS LIVE,
AS YOUR BOD'S
SO CLOSE TO YOUR
OWN SOUL!

YOU MUST
BELIEVE TH'S
TRAGEDY WAS
NE ER ER
MY GOAL





WINGS UP! IT'S UNANIMOUS. YOU'RE GUILTY AND CAN'T REFUTE IT.

BUT I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL... YOUR DEATH SENTENCE? WE'LL COMMUTE IT

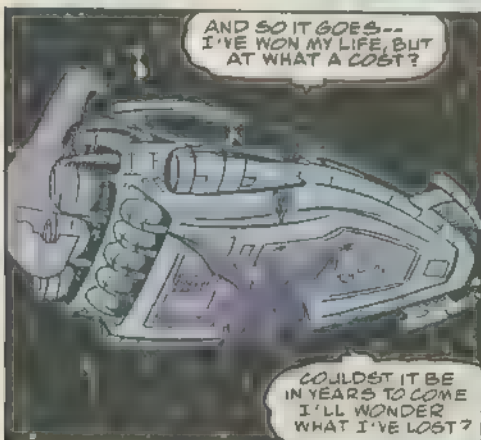
YOU'RE FREE TO GO. BUT KNOW YOU TH'S THAT UPON YOUR DEPARTURE..

..YOU'LL BE E'ER EXILED FROM THE FLOCK!

T'S WHAT I WANT, I'M HEART-SURE.

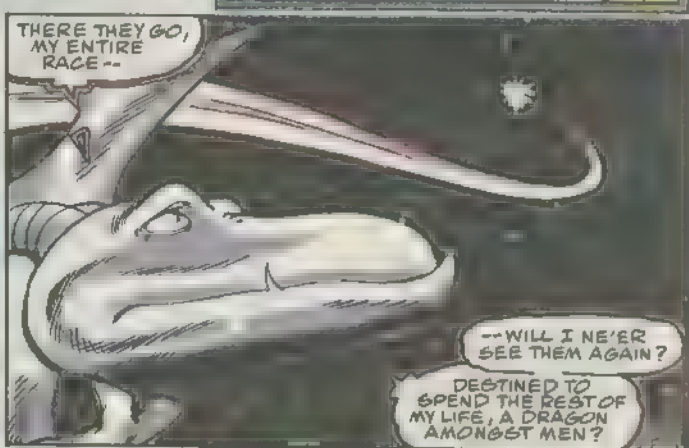
BEFORE YOU GO, LOCKHEED AND GETST UPON WITH YOUR LIFE.

..KNOW I HARBOR NO ILL FEELINGS. I WOULDST HAVE BEEN PROUD TO BE YOUR WIFE



AND SO IT GOES-- I'VE WON MY LIFE, BUT AT WHAT A COST?

COULDST IT BE IN YEARS TO COME I'LL WONDER WHAT I'VE LOST?



THERE THEY GO, MY ENTIRE RACE--

--WILL I NE'ER SEE THEM AGAIN?

DESTINED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE, A DRAGON AMONGST MEN?

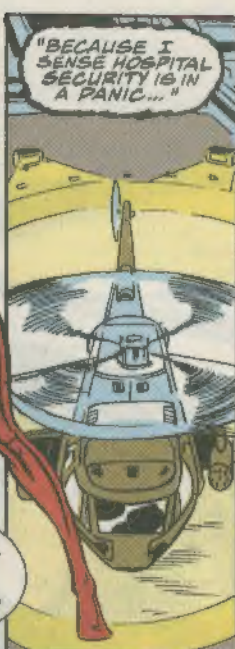


CHUPPA CHUPPA

WHATST IS THIS? VISITORS? BUT BE THEY FRIENDLY FR'END OR FOE?



BY THE LOOKS OF ME, I MAY NE'ER FIND OUT. IT STILL LOOKS TOUCH AND GO



CHUPPA
CHUPPA
CHUPPA

SORRY
TO LEARN
ABOUT THE
DRAGON,
KID.

WE CAME
AS SOON AS WE
HEARD.

NEXT ISSUE: THE TITLE SAYS IT ALL!
"AT LAST-- THE REUNION!"
(SORT OF!)

SWORD STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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New York, New York 10016

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Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

First of all, I would like to assure you that there are more female readers than you think. But, let's face it. Yours is a mostly male production and we girls are a bit shy (and a little scared) to admit we read, and participate or create, comic art. I have studied comic/graphic art (although I prefer Japanese animation) and appreciate the hard work that goes into a monthly title.

I would like to thank you for bringing back Rachel Summers. Since her introduction in the X-MEN, she has been my favorite. Every male seem to be hung up on Kitty. Why? They are missing a very beautiful and loving individual.

Another thank you for replacing Mr. Claremont. (Sorry, Chris.) All that cross-time adventuring was quite confusing.

Keep up the good work!

Krystal Williams

(Address withheld upon request)

You must be right, Krystal. We have three letters from our female readers right here on this very page!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

When my friend Noel told me that Alan Davis was coming back to EXCALIBUR with issue #41, I threw my hands into the air and shouted "Yes!!" Sure, all the people in Mr. DeLeon's Biology class now think I've gone off my rocker, but I've been smiling ever since that morning. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I wish I didn't have to wait four whole months.

Where can I write to Alan Davis and/or Paul Neary?

Julia Ebner

2407 Mimosa

Mission, TX 78572

Some good news and some bad, Julia. First, the good: Yes, Alan Davis is returning to these pages. Now, the bad: You'll have to wait one more month. It'll be issue #42 before you and the many other readers who wrote to us will finally get your fondest wish granted. Hang in there!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

Once again, Mighty Marvel has me hooked on yet another part of the Marvel Universe! (Or should I say multiverse?) The main reason I picked up EXCALIBUR #36 was because SPECTACULAR SPIDEY #173 mentioned that the Outlaws would be in EXCALIBUR #36. I bought it, read it thoroughly, and enjoyed every panel of it. Well, I guess that I'll have to buy back issues and issues to come of EXCALIBUR, but as long as they're as well-drawn, well-written and humorous as

#36, it will be worth every penny.

Until the multiverse collapses, Make Mine Marvel!

Scott Watson

3550 Paseo Salamoner

La Mesa, CA 91941

That's what we like to hear, Scott! Welcome aboard!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

This is the first time I have written to an American Marvel publication, but the standards of EXCALIBUR are just so high that I had to. I have been a big fan of the comic for a few years now and I think that Chris Claremont has outdone himself with keeping EXCALIBUR on a very high level.

Marvel UK is not producing very many super hero titles these days. Did you know that EXCALIBUR is just about the only Marvel USA comic available in local newsagents over here? It's more widely available than any other American comic. And it's a huge success.

Well, that's enough from me, except to say a small mention to Damian Lee, who is EXCALIBUR's second biggest British fan. Could you please print my full address for anyone who wants a British Marvelite pen pal? A promised reply to everyone who writes.

Until Marvel UK puts up it's grades a bit, make mine born in the U.S.A.

Andrew Steel

13 Balk Ave.

Helperby, York

YO62PZ England

Always a treat to hear from our British fans, Andrew! Thanks for the interesting info on EXCALIBUR!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

I must say that EXCALIBUR has easily become my favorite book to read. Why, you ask? I suppose I should say "Because," but I won't. It's probably because Nightcrawler and Phoenix have for some time been my favorite characters. But that doesn't make a good book, now does it? (Actually, it does, but...) In general the stories have been exceptional, and the art just keeps getting better.

By the way, have you ever thought of doing an un-colored issue? No? Well then, think about it! Why not? It doesn't have to be black and white, just have the pencils printed. Well, you've got to admit it would be interesting.

Anyway, I just read #35 and guess what — I loved it! Surprise! It's so hard to believe that you're already up to issue #35. I still seem to think of this as a new title, probably because the plots are always so different from each other that I just seem to absorb them as separate entities.

I also liked #'s 32-34, and am

assuming that we will at some time revisit our ever-lovely school to delve into why Kitty's powers were canceled while on campus.

Harry Slomovits

162 S. Formosa Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Uncolored, Harry? We just don't think most fans would enjoy it — but it is an interesting suggestion!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

EXCALIBUR #35 was really good. I must really thank you for this flash-back on Rachel/Phoenix's "future past." Because of limited money, time, and resources, it's been hard to get a hold of any information on Rachel's history.

Are there going to be any developments with Kitty and the Soul Sword?

Thanks for doing such a great job with my favorite mutant book.

Dale Yaddow

176-A Church Rd.

Whitesboro, NY 13492

Are you psychic, Dale? How could you know that not only were we doing more about Rachel, we were also doing the recently wrapped-up Kitty/Soul Sword story? Creepy.

Anyway, hope you enjoyed them!

Dear Marvel,

I have just returned to EXCALIBUR after almost two years of absence and boy am I pleased! Issue #36 was great! It had wonderful guest stars, great art, and some nice light humor. I would like to ask you to keep the humor light — I much prefer it.

That conversation between Kitty and Prowler was almost enough to make me laugh out loud. It was great to see that Kitty hadn't lost any of her smarts during my long absence. I hope to see her spotlighting in the future since she is my favorite Marvel mutant ever! I'd also like to see Kitty get the guy once instead of Rachel. Any guy would be lucky to get someone like Kitty!

The Outlaws were a good start for guest stars. As a second choice, I suggest Avengers West Coast. And maybe an appearance by Doctor Doom to really give 'em a fight.

What does Widget do besides eating anything and creating inter-dimensional doorways?

Scott Pasch

4910 Heversham Ct.

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Not another psychic letter-writer! Welcome back, Scott! You got almost everything you asked for!

Widget is about to become a very interesting little purple guy. Keep reading!

Scanned by
Emma_M



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